

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for detecting and preventing infringement of intellectual property over a communication medium, said system comprising:
 - 5 (a) a database of search intellectual property;
 - (b) at least one service module for interfacing with said communication medium;
 - (c) a data processing system interfactable with said at least one service module and said database;
 - 10 (i) said data processing system for accessing said database to retrieve said search intellectual property;
 - (ii) said data processing system for accessing said communication medium using said at least one service module;
 - 15 (iii) said data processing system for searching for said search intellectual property over said communication medium; and
 - (iv) said data processing system for detecting possible infringements of said intellectual property to be protected and for producing a possible infractors list;
 - 20 (d) an infraction module interfactable with said data processing system;
 - (i) said infraction module for receiving said possible infractors list from said data processing system; and
 - (ii) said infraction module verifying infringements and producing an actual infractors list; and
 - 25 (e) a cease-and-desist module interfactable with said infraction processing system;
 - (i) said cease-and-desist module for receiving said actual infractors list from said infraction module; and
 - (ii) said cease-and-desist module for attempting to stop said

infringements over said communication medium.

2. The system of claim 1, said at least one service module selected from the group of service modules consisting of:

- 5 (a) a Usenet service module;
- (b) a news group service module;
- (c) an FTP service module;
- (d) an IRC service module;
- (e) a WWW service module;
- 10 (f) a Hotline service module;
- (g) an e-mail service module;
- (h) a TCP/IP service module;
- (i) a Novell NetWare service module;
- (j) a LANtastic Network service module;
- 15 (k) a Gopher service module;
- (l) an HTTP service module;
- (m) a Telnet service module;
- (n) an rlogin service module;
- (o) a finger service module;
- 20 (p) a wide-area network service module;
- (q) an intranet service module; and
- (r) a Gnutella module.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one service module is
25 a plurality of service modules, at least one of said plurality of service modules
interfacable with another at least one of said plurality of service modules to provide a
communication link to a possible infractor.

4. The system of claim 1, said data processing system further comprising at least one module selected from the group of modules consisting of:

- (a) at least one database interface module;
- (b) at least one file name repository module;
- (c) at least one directory name repository module;
- (d) at least one file path repository module;
- (e) at least one checksum repository module;
- (f) at least one file size repository module; and
- (g) at least one reference address repository module.

5. The system of claim 1, said data processing system further comprising at least one infringement-identification module interfactable with said at least one service module and said infraction module:

- (a) said infringement-identification module receiving content input from said at least one service module;
- (b) said infringement-identification module comparing said content input to said search intellectual property; and
- (c) said infringement-identification module outputting matches between said content input and said intellectual property to said infraction module.

6. The system of claim 5, said content input further comprising at least one listing selected from the group of listings consisting of:

- (a) Usenet traffic listings;
- (b) FTP content listings;
- (c) IRC offering listings;
- (d) WWW site listings;
- (e) Hotline listings; and
- (f) e-mail content listings.

7. The system of claim 1, said system further comprising a reporting module interfactable with said infraction module, said reporting module summarizing infringements identified by said infraction module.

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8. The system of claim 1, said system further comprising a reporting module interfactable with said cease-and-desist module, said reporting module summarizing attempts made by said cease-and-desist module to stop said infringements.

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9. A system for detecting and preventing intellectual property infringement over a communication medium, said system comprising:

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- (a) at least one service module for scanning communication medium services for potentially infringing content;
- (b) said service module capable of passing a reference address from a communication medium service having potentially infringing content;
- (b) an infringement-identification module for receiving said reference address;
- (c) said infringement-identification module capable of determining whether potentially infringing content is present;
- (d) an infraction module for receiving said reference address;
- (e) said infraction module capable of identifying infringing content;
- (f) a cease-and-desist module for receiving said reference address; and
- (g) said cease-and-desist module capable of attempting to remove said infringing content.

10. The system of claim 9 further comprising a reporting module for reporting attempts by said cease-and-desist module to remove infringing content.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said at least one service module is a plurality of service modules, at least one of said plurality of service modules interfactable with another at least one of said plurality of service modules to provide a communication link to a possible infractor.

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12. A system for detecting and preventing intellectual property infringement over a communication medium, said system comprising:

- (a) at least one service module for scanning said communication medium for potentially infringing content, said at least one service module capable of passing a reference address of a potential infringer;
- (b) an infringement-identification module for receiving said reference address of a potential infringer, said infringement-identification module capable of determining whether infringing content is present and passing a reference address of an infringer; and
- (c) a cease-and-desist module for receiving said reference address of an infringer and at least attempting to remove said infringing content.

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13. The system of claim 12 further comprising a reporting module for reporting the activity of said cease-and-desist module.

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14. The method of claim 12 wherein said at least one service module is a plurality of service modules, at least one of said plurality of service modules interfactable with another at least one of said plurality of service modules to provide a reference address of a potential infringer.

15. A method for detecting and preventing intellectual property infringement over a communication medium, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) scanning said communication medium for potentially infringing content;
- (b) passing a reference address of a potential infringer to an infringement-identification module;
- 5 (c) determining whether infringing content is present;
- (d) passing a reference address of an infringer to a cease-and-desist module; and
- (e) attempting to remove said infringing content.

10 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of reporting the results of said scanning step, determining step, and attempting to remove step to an owner of intellectual property.

15 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of passing a reference address between a plurality of scanning modules to enhance said scanning step.

18. A system for detecting and preventing intellectual property infringement over a communication medium, said system comprising:

- (a) means for scanning said communication medium for potentially infringing content;
- (b) means for passing a reference address of a potential infringer;
- (c) means for identifying infringement comprising:
 - 20 (i) means for receiving said reference address of a potential infringer;
 - 25 (ii) means for determining whether infringing content is present; and
 - (iii) means for passing a reference address of an actual infringer; and

- (d) means for receiving said reference address of an actual infringer and at least attempting to remove said infringing content.